(iii) Ban on export of sugar has been removed in January, 2007 and requirement of obtaining an export release order for export of sugar except exports to EU countries and USA has been withdrawn *w.e.f.* 31.07.2007, for the current and next sugar season.

The above steps would also benefit the sugar mills of Uttar Pradesh.

Statement

Details of cane price arrears as on 30.06.2007 of major sugar groups in respect of their sugar units situated in the State of Uttar Pradesh

Sl. No.	Name of the sugar group	Cane price arrears, as on 30.06.2007, for the current sugar season 2006-07 (In crore Rs.)
1.	Bajaj Hindustan Ltd.	438.16
2.	Balrampur Chini Mills Ltd.	198.68
3.	Dhampur Sugar Mills Ltd.	141.51
4.	Triveni Engineering & Industries Ltd.	141.12
5.	Modi Industries Ltd.	125.93
6.	Mawana Sugars Ltd.	77.12
7.	Simbhaoli Sugars Ltd.	65.53
8.	Oudh Sugar Mills Ltd.	50.98
9.	DSCL Sugars	48.66
10.	Dwarikesh Sugar Industries Ltd.	39.07
	TOTAL:	1326.76

Non-availability of foodgrains in FCI depot

638. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the non-availability of foodgrains stock in certain depots of FCI in Kerala affecting the proper functioning of the Public Distribution System; and

(b) if so, whether Government would give strict direction to the FCI authorities in the State to make inter-depot movement and rational placement of stocks in all depots for the smooth working of the Public Distribution System in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) There has not been any instance of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in Kerala getting adversely affected due to non-availability of foodgrains in any of the functional

depots of FCI in Kerala. As on 1.8.2007, FCI was holding adequate stock of wheat and rice in Kerala sufficient to meet two months' requirement of the State for its Public Distribution System.

However, FCI's depot at Angadipuram has not been functional for the last three years because of refusal of Railways to place wagons at this depot because of operational reasons. In order to ensure smooth functioning of Public Distribution System in the State, the wholesale PDS dealers attached to Angadipuram depot have been linked to other nearby depots of FCI.

(b) In view of reply in part (a) above, question does not arise. Further, during exigencies the General Managers, Region of FCI are already empowered to make inter-depot/district movement in case of non-availability of foodgrains at a particular depot.

Hoarding and black marketing of essential items

639. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one major reason for short supply of essential items is hoarding and black marketing;

(b) if so, the details of number of traders trapped under the Essential Commodities Act during the last three years; and

(c) what are the future plans of Government for. stopping the hoarding and black marketing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) The basic reason for shortages in supply of certain essential commodities is the demand and supply mismatch in respect of these commodities. The rise in demand has been on account of increase in population, increase in incomes and changes in consumption patterns. In case of certain foodstuffs, availability has been affected by shortfalls in domestic production on account of seasonal factors and simultaneous hardening of international prices, impacting their imports.

(b) Details of action taken by State/Union Territory Governments under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 during 2004, 2005 and 2006 are as under:-

Year	No. of persons arrested
2004	2401
2005	4440
2006	5421

(c) Adequate powers are vested with State/UT Governments under the Essential Commodities Act 1955 and the Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 for preventing malpractices in respect of essential commodities. Directions have been given to the State/UT Governments from time to time to take necessary action under both the Acts, and to strengthen